

Remarks

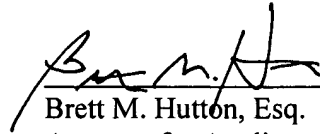
Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments prior to examination of the present application. No new matter is believed added. Support for these amendments are found in the specification as filed.

As noted in the Statement of Status of Support For All Changes To The Claims Under 37 C.F.R. 1.173(C) filed with the reissue application on January 21, 2004, claims 1-21 of the reissue application are identical to claims 1-21 of original U.S. Patent No. 5,573,414 ("the '414 patent"), which are subject to an interference proceeding (Interference No. 105,120).

On June 10, 2004, the Senior Party in the interference proceeding entered an adverse judgment against itself, effectively awarding priority to the subject matter of the '414 patent to the assignee of the above-referenced reissue application. As part of the settlement between the parties, the subject matter of claims 1, 5-8, 17-18 and 20 of the '414 patent were to be dedicated to the public. As such, claims 1, 5-8, 17-18 and 20 of the instant reissue application are being cancelled and dedicated to the public by the accompanying Disclaimer Of Patent Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §253. Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims from the original '414 patent, namely claims 2-4, 9-16, 19, and 21 of the instant reissue application, as amended, and new claims 22-28, added at the time of filing the instant reissue application, contain patentable subject matter and are patentable distinct from the dedicated claims.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Brett M. Hutton, Esq.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,787

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.

5 Columbia Circle

Albany, New York 12203

Telephone: (518) 452-5600

Facsimile: (518) 452-5579